

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 05370 172023Z

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NODIS CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS : PFOR, IS, EG

SUBJECT : LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT FOR PRIME
MINISTER RABIN

1. I DELIVERED PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO RABIN IN JERUSALEM
TODAY AT 1700.

2. AFTER READING AND REREADING LETTER WITH GREAT CARE,
RABIN SAID THAT ORDINARILY HE WOULD NOT REACT ON THE SPOT
TO A PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE, BUT HE FELT COMPELLED TO EX-
PRESS HIS DEEP CONCERN ABOUT TWO POINTS IN LETTER WHICH
HE ASKED ME TO CONVEY IMMEDIATELY TO PRESIDENT AND
SECRETARY.

3. FIRST, FORMULA IN LETTER WITH REGARD TO OVERALL SETTLE-
MENT PROPOSALS WAS HE FELT NOT COMPATIBLE WITH WHAT
PRESIDENT TOLD HIM LAST SEPTEMBER AND ON WHICH HE AND HIS
COLLEAGUES HAD CONSISTENTLY RELIED IN PURSUING INTERIM AGREE-
MEN5 COURSE. PRESIDENT HAD SAID, ACCORDING TO RABIN, THAT
FOR FIRST 18 MONTHS OR 2 YEARS OF INTERIM AGREEMENT'S DURATION,
7.S. WOULD NOT PUT FORWARD ANY PROPOSALS FOR OVER-ALL SETTLE-
MENT UNLESS AGREED BY ISRAEL AND FOR REMAINING 18 MONTHS OF
INTERIM AGREEMENT'S DURATION PRESIDENT HAD SAID "TRUST ME".

4. SECOND, FORMULA ON GOLAN HEIGHTS WAS AT VARIANCE WITH
RABIN'S UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT SECRETARY HAD PROMISED MRS. MEIR
IN 1974 AND OF WHAT PRESIDENT HAD SAID LAST SEPTEMBER. RABIN

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 TEL AV 05370 172023Z

CLAIMED THAT BOTH PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY HAD MADE CLEAR THAT

WHILE ISRAEL WOULD BE EXPECTED IN CONTEXT OVER-ALL SETTLEMENT TO AGREE TO CHANGES IN DEPLOYMENT ON GOLAN SHE WOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO LEAVE THE HEIGHTS NOR WOULD THE U.S. BE PARTY TO ANY MOVE OR ARRANGEMENT DESIGNED TO FORCE ISRAEL DOWN FROM GOLAN. FORMULA IN PRESIDENT'S LETTER WAS MUCH LESS FIRM THAN THIS, AND WHILE HE COULD NOT BE SURE PRECISELY WHAT PRESIDENT MEANT BY "OTHER ARRANGEMENTS", (NOR COULD I, OF COURSE, ENLIGHTEN RABIN ON THIS POINT), RABIN FELT UNEASE LEST WORDING MIGHT REFLECT U.S. WILLINGNESS ACCEPT UN PRESENCE AS SUBSTITUTE WHICH, OF COURSE, TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO ISRAEL.

5. RABIN ASKED ME TO MAKE CLEAR TO PRESIDENT THAT WITHOUT SATISFACTORY CLARIFICATION THESE TWO POINTS INTERIM AGREEMENT COULD BE SERIOUSLY ENDANGERED. CABINET MEETING TODAY HAD BEEN EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT AND IF HE HAD RECEIVED PRESIDENT'S LETTER BEFORE MEETING AND CABINET MADE PRIVY TO ITS CONTENTS, THERE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN AGREEMENT TO SHUTTLE.

6. SPEAKING PRIVATELY, RABIN TOLD ME HE FAILED UNDERSTAND WHY THERE HAD BEEN NO DISCUSSION--AT LEAST TO HIS KNOWLEDGE--OF CONTENTS OF LETTER SO VITAL TO ISRAELIS BEFORE FIXING FINAL VERSION. ACCORDING TO RABIN, ISRAELI DRAFT (COPY OF WHICH HE GAVE ME) HAD BEEN GIVEN SECRETARY BY DINITZ MID-WEEK AND IT WAS RABIN'S UNDERSTANDING U.S. WOULD SUBMIT COUNTERDRAFT AND DIFFERENCES WOULD BE IRONED OUT TO SATISFACTION BOTH SIDES. THIS HAD NOT BEEN DONE, AND RABIN NOTED RUEFULLY THAT WE SEEMED TO BE ON VERGE OF ANOTHER MISUNDERSTANDING. IN ANY CASE, HE DID NOT WISH AGAIN TO BE ACCUSED OF "MISLEADING" PRESIDENT AND IT WAS FOR THIS REASON HE SOUGHT MY HELP IN UNDERLINING TO PRESIDENT SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR ISRAELI LEADERSHIP IF FORMULAE ON SUCH KEY POINTS AS AGREED APPROACH TO OVER-ALL SETTLEMENT AND GOLAN HEIGHTS REMAINED UNCHANGED. RABIN WOULD NOT VENTURE SUGGESTION AS TO HOW PROBLEM MIGHT BE MET, BUT HE WOULD ASSURE PRESIDENT THROUGH ME THAT NONE OF HIS COLLEAGUES WOULD BE INFORMED OF LETTER UNTIL PRESIDENT HAD CHANCE TO REACT TO THIS MESSAGE. HE DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT ORAL CLARIFICATION OF U.S. POSITIONS BY SECRETARY DURING SHUTTLE WOULD NOT MEET HIS PROBLE AND THAT, IN ANY CASE, HIGHLY PREFERABLE THAT CLARIFICATION BE AT HAND BEFORE SHUTTLE BEGINS.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 TEL AV 05370 172023Z

UM AS I LEFT, RABIN SAID I SHOULD KNOW THAT FOLLOWING CABINET MEETING DINITZ HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CONVEY ISRAELI GOVT'S AGREEMENT TO SHUTTLE ANNOUNCEMENT TONIGHT FROM COLORADO ON UNDERSTANDING THAT DURING SHUTTLE FOLLOWING ISSUES BE FURTHER CLARIFIED: (1) SCOPE OF U.S. PRESENCE IN SINAI; (2) RECOMMENDED AID TOTALS, AND (3) COMMITMENT ON CERTAIN SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT. DINITZ, HE SAID, HAD BEEN GIVEN FULL INFORMATION ON CABINET'S VIEWS ON THESE POINTS WHICH HE INSTRUCTED CONVEY

IMMEDIATELY TO SISCO FOR SECRETARY IN COLORADO.

TOON

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